

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 330

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to recognize Head Coach Stephany Smith and the Middle Tennessee State University Women's Basketball Team upon completing an extraordinary season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball program is one such estimable basketball team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2004-2005 season, establishing a record of twenty-four wins and nine losses on their way to claiming the Sun Belt Tournament Title; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team rolled through the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, prevailing over the powerhouse teams of New Orleans (73-30), North Texas (59-58), and Western Kentucky (65-61) in a juggernautish romp into the Sun Belt Tournament Championship Game; the Lady Blue Raiders completed their perfect Sun Belt tournament record by defeating Louisiana-Lafayette (67-52) to claim the Sun Belt Tournament Title; and

WHEREAS, Chrissy Givens, Tia Stovall, and Patrice Holmes were named to the All-Sun Belt Tournament Team; Patrice Holmes was also named Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament for the third straight season, a league record, was named the Sun Belt Conference (SBC) Defensive Player of the Year, and earned a place on the First Team All-SBC Team for the third straight season; Chrissy Givens and Tia Stovall were given First Team All-SBC Team honorable mention; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team includes Ciara Gray, Krystle Horton, Sara Nuxol, Ditte Jakobsen, Starr Orr, Latoya Barclay, Tia Stovall, Chrissy Givens, Patrice Holmes, and Lakira Boyd; and

WHEREAS, advancing to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, the Lady Raiders stunned twenty-first-ranked North Carolina State when MTSU's Patrice Holmes hit the game-winning jump shot with 1.6 seconds remaining; and

WHEREAS, after defeating North Carolina State by the score sixty to fifty-eight, the Lady Blue Raiders advanced to the second round to play fourteenth-ranked Texas Tech; and

WHEREAS, with great sportsmanship and outstanding character, the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team conducted themselves in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee after a valiant but unsuccessful effort against Texas Tech in the second round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the able leadership of Head Coach Stephany Smith, MTSU's Coaching Staff included Assistant Coaches Melanie Walls, Kim Rosamond, Drew Clinton, and Keisha McClinic; Managers Dennis Watson, Allison Bradley, and Tarika Carter; and Sports Medicine Trainer Alison Ness; and

WHEREAS, their appearance in the NCAA Tournament capped an amazing season for the program; the team posted the best two-year win total in the school's history with 48 victories, won its seventh conference championship and made its ninth NCAA Tournament appearance, became the first team to win four Sun Belt Tournament games, and gained Coach Smith her 150th victory; and

WHEREAS, the women's basketball players at Middle Tennessee State University epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible an extraordinary basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Middle Tennessee State University Lady Raiders for winning the 2004-2005 Sun Belt Conference Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Head Coach Stephany Smith and the members of the Middle Tennessee State University women's basketball team and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.